

## Minutes of the October 22, 2011 Meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the AAC

The October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club was held in the CEWC Visitor Center in Mansfield, GA at 4 PM with twenty one people in attendance.

Alicia Rast, outgoing Charlie Elliott liaison, gave an update on overnight options at Charlie Elliott in the lodge and camping area. She also reviewed the CEWC hunting season list so that we would be aware while on the observing field (which is in the safety zone).

Frank Garner did a demonstration of how to align a German equatorial mount, followed by Larry Owens who explained drift alignment. Marie Lott gave a short presentation about the Great Star Count, currently underway, and how to estimate sky darkness using the visibility of stars in Cygnus. The web site [www.starcount.org](http://www.starcount.org) has details and instructions for submitting your own observations.

Observing supervisor Steven Phillips gave the monthly "Observing 101" talk, a highlight of current sun, moon and planet rise & set times, and observing targets.

### Events during late October/early November 2011:

- Asteroid Ceres travels through southeastern Aquarius
- Asteroid 15 Eunomia glides through southern Perseus
- Comet Garradd moves slowly through the constellation Hercules
- Oct 22 – Orionid meteor peaks in the early morning
- Oct 23 - Jupiter great red spot transit at 5:02 AM
- Oct 26 - New moon
- Oct 27 - Mercury 2° below Venus after sunset
- Oct 27 - Io shadow transit of Jupiter at 11:22 PM
- Oct 28 - Thin waxing crescent moon near Venus
- Oct 28 - Jupiter at opposition
- Oct 28 – Nov 16: Mercury 2° below Venus low in the SW 30 min. after sunset
- Nov 2 - View Mons Piton on the 1st quarter moon
- Nov 4 - Moon 6° north of Neptune 4:00 AM
- Nov 5 - Next CE Chapter meeting

**Small Telescope/Binocular Target List:** double stars Albireo (Beta Cyg), Mesarthim (Gamma Ari), 61 Cyg, Gamma Del, Zeta Aqr; galaxy M31; globular clusters M2 & M15; planetary nebulas M27 & M57, NGC 7009; open clusters M39 & NGC 457.



Steven Phillip's son demonstrates binocular mount  
Photo by Larry Owens

The featured observational topic for October was **Binocular Mounts**. Steven reviewed the many ways to stabilize & mount your binoculars: tripod heads (included with small and medium duty tripods), "L" adapters, monopods, parallelogram mounts ("T" mounts), fork mounts, and permanent piers.

Many members adjourned to Jon Wood Astronomy Field to enjoy amazing views of Jupiter as well as a beautiful blue Uranus, a pale Neptune, and some close up view of favorite Messier objects.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Lott  
CE Recording Secretary